

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, VE

SUBJ: PUBLIC REMARKS BY PRESIDENT PEREZ ON THE
SECRETARY'S VISITS TO BRAZIL & VENEZUELA

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD THE PRESS ON MARCH 3 THAT THE
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BRAZIL, VENEZUELA AND ALL OTHER LATIN
COUNTRIES WAS TIED TO THE 'HISTORIC IMPERATIVE' OF LATIN
AMERICAN INTEGRATION. IF THERE WERE ANY KISSINGER DESIGN
TO SPREAD MISTRUST AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES PEREZ
SAID THAT IT WOULD BE AN OVERSIMPLICATION TO THINK THAT
LATINS WOULD "FALL INTO SUCH A TRAP". PEREZ CHARACTERIZED
HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY AS "FULL AND VERY
SATISFACTORY." END SUMMARY.

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT MIRAFLORES PALACE FOLLOWING
HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS ON MARCH 3,
PRESIDENT PEREZ ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE U.S.-
BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT AND HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY.
PEREZ'S COMMENTS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. ASKED HIS VIEW OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT IN BRAZIL,
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PEREZ REPLIED THAT:

--WHILE BRAZIL IS INDISPUTABLY A GREAT NATION, IT IS

NOT MOTIVATED BY IMPERIALIST DESIGNS;

--NEITHER BRAZIL WITH ITS ECONOMIC MIGHT, VENEZUELA WITH ITS VAST PETROLEUM WEALTH, NOR ANY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATION CAN ELUDE THE HISTORICAL IMPERATIVE OF LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, WHICH IS "THE DESTINY OF OUR PEOPLES:"

--DESPITE VARIOUS STUMBLING BLOCKS, THE ANDEAN PACT, --WHICH IS BOTH A STEPPING STONE TOWARD FULL LATIN AMERICAN INTERGRATION--HAS EVOLVED MORE SUCCESSFULLY THAN MAY HAD PREDICTED;

--IF THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE INTENDED TO SOW MISTRUST AMONGST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES--WHICH PEREZ WAS CAREFUL TO SAY HE WAS NOT ALLEGING THEN SUCH A MOVE WOULD IMPLY THE LATINS WERE WILLING SIMPLY TO "FALL INTO SUCH A TRAP;"

--LIKEWISE, IF BRAZIL WERE TO DIVORCE ITSELF FROM COMMON LATIN INTERESTS, WHICH PEREZ DENIED HAD HAPPENED, VENEZUELA'S OBLIGATION WOULD BE TO ATTRACT BRAZIL BACK TOWARDS THOSE INTERESTS, SINCE "OUR POLICY TOWARDS BRAZIL MUST BE ONE OF FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST."

3. ASKED DIRECTLY IF THE U.S. "PREFERENCE" FOR BRAZIL WAS A DELIBERATE U.S. MANEUVER TO BRAKE LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, PEREZ SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN SUCH "PREFERENCES" IN TODAY'S MULTIPOLAR WORLD IN WHICH EACH COUNTRY HAS DECISION-MAKING POWER. PEREZ DID NOT VIEW NEGATIVELY U.S.-BRAZILIAN CONSULTATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INASMUCH AS NOT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, CERTAINLY NOT VENEZUELA, WOULD SIDE WITH A GREAT POWER ON INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS WITHOUT STUDYING THEM CAREFULLY IN ADVANCE. HE ADDED. "VENEZUELA DOES NOT FEEL BOUND TO ANY U.S. DESIGN, ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN TOTAL SOLIDARITY ON THE PRINCIPLES OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS UPHOLD."

4. QUERIED AS TO WHETHER THE SECRETARY HAD OFFERED VENEZUELA AN AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE LATER SIGNED WITH BRAZIL, PEREZ REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE AS I SAID AT THE TIME, OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WERE FULL AND VERY SATISFACTORY, CONDUCTED RESPECTFULLY AND WITH MUTUAL FRANKNESS. WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE
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DESCRETION REQUIRED IN COMMENTING ON THESE CONVERSATIONS, I DO BELIEVE THAT VENEZUELA OBTAINED WHAT IS PROPOSED, WITHOUT HARM TO ANY FUNDAMENTAL VENEZUELAN INTEREST. INDEED, THESE DISCUSSIONS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM PERSONALLY TO THIS EMINENT U.S. SPOKESMAN WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING FROM THE TIME OF MY PUBLIC LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD. UNQUOTE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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